

will show that generation the way back.

We can hasten that day by remembering and celebrating his life, his lessons, and his achievements.

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS OF THREE AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN FROM ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we celebrate Black History Month across our Nation. And I want to recognize the extraordinary efforts of three African American women from Rockford, Illinois, who have honorably served three separate branches of our Armed Forces. Our Nation is indebted to them.

Later this week, the stories of Margaret Patricia Whelcher, Lana McCants, and Milana Herman will be displayed to the public at the Veterans Memorial Hall and Museum in Rockford, Illinois.

Their contributions to our country have been chronicled by local students from Harlem High School as part of the annual Harlem Veterans Project, and they have conducted interviews, shot videos, and have photographs and more.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to bring attention to their sacrifices and thank them for their service today.

Margaret Patricia Whelcher, she served in the United States Air Force from 1988 to 1991 and achieved the rank of senior airman.

Lana McCants, she served in the United States Navy from 1991 to 1997 and achieved the rank of operation specialist 3rd class.

Milana Herman served in the United States Army from 1989 to 1994 and achieved the rank of staff sergeant.

In addition to their distinguished military service, these veterans have worked to better our community. Lana is an active member of the American Legion Post 340, while Margaret and Milana routinely participate in local stand-downs, where they offer a variety of support services for at-risk veterans.

I am proud to see them represent our community with such distinction and such honor. Their selfless commitment to country and community sets a strong example for the leaders of tomorrow. It is crucial that their inspirational stories are spread far and wide.

That is why I applaud the work of those students participating in the Harlem Veterans Project. These students have sought to build a unique bond with members of the community and raise the voices of those around them.

Institutions like the Veterans Memorial Hall and Museum in Rockford, which will feature these incredible women, tell the stories of so many who have made an immense impact on the

lives of those across our region. It is only fitting that the stories of Margaret, Lana, and Milana will be displayed with the rest of them.

We must never forget those who paved the path before us. Stories like theirs make up the very fabric of our Nation. They should be cherished and celebrated.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELORS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week marked National School Counselors Week.

School counselors play a valuable role in the lives of our Nation's students. They help students navigate challenges, both academic and personal, through all phases of education. But some counselors truly go above and beyond.

Recently, I had the pleasure of joining the American School Counselor Association for a meeting, where I met Laura Ross, the 2020 School Counselor of the Year. Laura's co-workers have called her a true hero and a champion for the work that she has done at Five Forks Middle School.

School counselors like Laura have big responsibilities and even greater opportunities to make a difference in the lives of young people. When people choose to dedicate their careers to providing support and guidance for these students, they are better equipped to tackle personal and professional challenges and better prepared to enter the workforce.

A successful career begins with a well-rounded view of what the workforce entails. Effective counseling can assist learners in better understanding their educational opportunities and career prospects, while preventing students from taking on sizable debt.

H.R. 5092, the Counseling for Career Choice Act, seeks to ensure high school students are made aware of their educational options and career prospects prior to graduation. To do that, the bill would establish a grant program for \$40 million to invest in career counseling programs for high school students.

It also invests in professional development opportunities for counselors working with these students so counselors can do their jobs to the best of their ability and stay up to date on workforce trends and postsecondary opportunities. This includes 2- and 4-year degree programs, but that also includes certificate programs, internships, and apprenticeships.

Mr. Speaker, we all owe a debt of gratitude to our Nation's school counselors. All year long, their service and support of our Nation's young people is greatly appreciated.

REMEMBERING THE BAKU POGROMS THAT TOOK PLACE 30 YEARS AGO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the Baku pogroms, which took place in January 1990, some 30 years ago. The Baku pogroms represented the culmination of years of atrocities by the Azeris against ethnic Armenians living in Azerbaijani communities, such as Sumgait and Kirovobad.

Time and time again, Armenians fell victim to their neighbors, as gangs of Azeris roamed the streets, smashed windows, burned cars, and attacked any Armenians they found. The gangs murdered and mutilated some women and repeatedly raped others.

In Baku, the pattern held, as looters destroyed property and tortured the murdered victims. Thousands of Armenians fled the systemic violence, world chess champion Gary Kasparov's family counted among them.

Mr. Speaker, Azerbaijan was engaged in a systemic effort to erase this history and silence those who repeat it. I rise today so that they cannot succeed.

The history of this violence is one of the many reasons I believe that residents of Nagorno-Karabakh or Artsakh should be allowed to live in peace, freedom, and security. The United States has a crucial role to play in promoting this outcome.

For decades, U.S. aid has helped clear mines in Artsakh, saving lives, promoting development, and giving communities a sense of normalcy. Today, even though the work is not done, that aid is threatened.

Today, even though Armenia and Artsakh have embraced the Royce-Engel peace proposal, while Azerbaijan has rejected it, Artsakh could lose the mining assistance. And today, even though Armenia has transformed itself into a growing democracy, it is autocratic Azerbaijan that has received a massive, disproportionate increase in military aid from the United States.

If the administration won't help those who stand for peace and democracy, Congress must. The legacy of Baku, Sumgait, and Kirovobad remind me why. We must fight for the memories of those we lost, for their dreams of safety and security, and for the promise of a free Artsakh.

RADICAL OPEN BORDERS POLICIES THAT ARE DANGEROUS TO OUR CITIZENS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose a truly radical piece of legislation that was recently introduced in this Chamber.

The New Way Forward Act, as it is called, introduced with the support of

more than three dozen Democratic cosponsors, decriminalizes illegal immigration, makes it nearly impossible for border authorities to detain and deport immigrants with criminal convictions, and forces taxpayers to foot the bill to bring back previously deported criminal illegal immigrants.

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Mr. Speaker, if this bill were to become law, it would enable illegal immigrants who have committed crimes abroad to be returned to the U.S., and it would allow them to gain a pathway to citizenship.

The bill eliminates the provision in current law that forbids an immigrant from entering the United States if they have committed drug crimes or any crimes involving moral turpitude. Examples of crimes involving moral turpitude include child molestation, kidnapping, rape, murder, and more. It is unthinkable that we would allow anyone who has committed those crimes to freely enter our country.

To add to the egregiousness of this legislation, it calls on the Department of Homeland Security to pay for the return of previously deported illegal immigrants. Under the bill, any immigrant deported since April 1996 would be allowed to return to the U.S. as long as they met a stunningly lax set of criteria. It is ridiculous to require American taxpayers to foot the bill to bring previously deported individuals back onto U.S. soil.

The bill would make it more difficult for ICE to detain an immigrant with a criminal record. Agents would be forced to prove that a suspect poses a danger or a flight risk without using the immigrant's past criminal history as a sole factor.

One of the Democratic cosponsors on this bill even proclaimed that it would end deportation for people who had contact with the criminal legal system. I would say it is common sense that a serious criminal conviction should lead to deportation.

Worse yet, this prevents ICE from deporting immigrants who have been convicted of crimes with an average sentence of less than 5 years. This bill would allow an alien who committed crimes like auto theft, weapons crimes, identity theft, and fraud to remain in the country.

Like many Americans, I want people to enter our country through the legal process—we want them here—and then to stay on the right side of the law. Legal immigration is what makes our country great. But we cannot pass bills, like this one, that incentivize more people to come here illegally or imposes no penalty on those who commit serious crimes.

I think most Americans would agree that we should welcome those who come to our land in a legal, merit-based way and that dangerous, illegal immigrants should not be allowed to come into our country or stay in our country.

Unfortunately, this bill makes a mockery of that principle and replaces it with a set of radical, open-border policies that are dangerous to our citizens and our communities. It is for that reason that it should be soundly defeated.

HONORING FALLEN SOLDIERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to honor and express my deepest sympathy, as a fellow Texan, to the family of Sergeant 1st Class Javier Gutierrez, who lost his life in battle in Afghanistan. I also want to acknowledge Sergeant 1st Class Antonio Rodriguez of New Mexico, as he lost his life in battle as well.

It is a war that is endless. Nonetheless, the service of our giants, our young men and women in uniform, is to be constantly honored.

Sergeant Gutierrez, a family man, a husband, a father, engaged in the service of his Nation, enthusiastically joining. He came from a long legacy of service to the Nation: his grandfather, another hero in our Nation, and his father, another hero in our Nation.

I pray for this family, who has now given the ultimate sacrifice and never refused to put on the uniform to fight in battle for this Nation's freedom, its justice, and its equality.

May God bless his family, and may he rest in peace.

DEFEAT PRESIDENT TRUMP'S PROPOSED BUDGET

Ms. JACKSON LEE. As I move to another topic, I would like to say that this is a message to my constituents and the American people.

As you have heard in the news, and were probably frightened by the excerpts, I hold in my hand a budget for America's future. This was offered by the President of the United States. It is frightening in its attack on the basic security, domestic security, of the American people.

I would venture to say that even our young soldiers have found the need for their families to sometimes have assistance with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, food stamps. Tragically, this budget digs deep to hatchet away the basic safety net that we have come to understand is not a handout for working families who may be impoverished but a hand-up.

I am startled by the cuts, draconian cuts, in this document. I am startled by \$1.6 trillion in cuts for Medicare and Medicaid.

I am startled by, in the midst of the coronavirus, a more than \$4 billion cut in funding for the NIH and the Centers for Disease Control, the very entities that provide lifesaving research and possible cures for the American people and people around the world.

The World Health Organization is begging to go into China at this time, and they are looking to have American researchers who are ready and able to

go, to determine how to stop, how to determine the origins, and how to thwart what might be a horrific pandemic around the world. How can you cut \$4 billion?

Then, the precious children in my congressional district, I have the privilege of representing a number of school districts, not just one, but a good number of school districts. Every day, the administrators, teachers, and parents, dropping their beautiful children off, are looking for an opportunity so that they, too, might serve and contribute to this great Nation. Yet, a number that is so startling it takes your breath away: \$6.2 billion in cuts for education.

After Hurricane Harvey, with 51 trillion gallons of floodwater, people are still suffering from the losses of their homes, still trying to fix flooding areas and mitigate the damage through infrastructure work. Yet, \$1.7 billion has been cut from those needs of people who have experienced heinous and horrific natural disasters and still need the repairs that are necessary.

Of course, every child knows that climate change is real. So in this Nation—the innovative, important leader of the world—we are slashing the dollars for climate research.

We are not aware as well, I guess, in this administration, that terrorism is on the rise, domestic terrorism in particular. But we must also be vigilant for the terrorism that brought down the Twin Towers on 9/11. Yet, those dollars are being cut from FEMA, \$746.9 million.

Then, let me say, as I close, that we are also saying to those who are unhoused, the homeless, those who seek better housing, that they, too, can't get housing. Affordable housing for the homeless and others is now waning.

Mr. Speaker, I ask to defeat this budget, as we will.

HONORING LITTLETON ALSTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I rise to recognize Littleton Alston for his lifetime contributions in the fine art of sculpting, both as a renowned artist and as a professor.

Littleton was born in Petersburg, Virginia, and grew up in northeast Washington, D.C., where he had his first encounter with great art and public sculpture. He still vividly remembers looking from his home down East Capitol Street and seeing the Capitol dome.

His mother, who was divorced and raising five children on her own, acknowledged and recognized a unique gift that Littleton seemed to possess: drawing. Her devotion and his talent helped him land an opportunity to attend the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C., where he graduated from high school.